

THE WEATHER:  
Fair today and tomorrow; somewhat cooler today. Highest temperature yesterday, 79; lowest, 64. Detailed report on page 2.

# 500 LIVES LOST IN COLORADO FLOOD DISASTER

## RISING COST OF ELECTRICITY CALLED UNFAIR

Citizens Oppose Plan as Substitute for Traction Merger.

## Revoking CHARTERS ONE METHOD URGED

Action by Congress to Fix Fares Favored by Federation.

Increasing the cost of electricity in order to reduce the fares on the street cars of the Washington Railway and Electric company is merely a question of which pocket shall be extracted from, is the opinion of J. S. Beach, a delegate of the Park View Citizens' association to the Federation of Citizens' associations.

"I am strongly opposed," said Mr. Beach, to any plan of merger that will accomplish as little as this. "It would be manifestly unfair to the users of great quantities of electricity, to whom the street cars are a very small item, and of very little benefit to anyone."

Chicago Revoked Charters. Elissa B. Carrier, a member of the Federation of Citizens' associations, compared the traction situation in Washington with that of Chicago from 1912 to 1918. During this time, said Mr. Carrier, the service became so poor that it was considered necessary to bring about a merger of the street car lines.

After reasonable length of time in which the railways made no apparent effort to bring about a merger, the city of Chicago revoked the charters of the several companies and leased the right of ways, including the tracks, to operators who conducted the lines on a cost basis. The service improved immediately and is in striking contrast to the service given prior to the merger.

Cal's Proposal Ridiculous. That such a proposal as that made by the president of the Washington Railway and Electric company is ridiculous is the opinion of both A. E. Shoemaker, of the Northwest Citizens' association, and S. E. Sledge, of the Chevy Chase Citizens' association.

W. B. Westlake, president of the Federation of Citizens' associations, unqualifiedly favors the repeal of the charter of the Washington Railway and Electric company in the event of the failure of a voluntary merger on the part of the railway companies.

Opposed by Federation. The federation, said Mr. Westlake, records its continued opposition to the application of any excess profits tax plan as applied to public service corporations and records its bitter and uncompromising hostility to any merger plan, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, that would place the Capital Traction company under the control, management or direction of the Washington Railway and Electric company.

The federation according to Mr. Westlake suggests to congress that the physical valuations of all the public service corporations operating in the District of Columbia be completed, that congress should now resume its right and power of fixing fares and charges of public utility service corporations operating in the District of Columbia until such time as a service at cost system is put in operation.

## REVENUE BUREAU POSITIONS FILLED

Commissioner of Internal Revenue David H. Blair, yesterday began his contemplated reorganization of the internal revenue bureau and the prohibition enforcement division.

The first important appointment was that of Edward H. Batson, a lawyer, to be deputy commissioner, in charge of the income tax unit. Mr. Batson began his government service as a page in the office of the fourth assistant postmaster-general in 1897.

Among the changes in supervising directors are: Elmer C. Potter, of Worcester, Mass., supervising prohibition agent for the northeastern department; Harold D. Wilson, of Wilmington, Mass., prohibition director for the state of Massachusetts; Dudley W. Snyder, of Clayton, N. M., prohibition director for the state of New Mexico, and Andrew B. Stroup, Albuquerque, N. M., supervising prohibition agent for the border department.

## France Loses War Passions In Facing Needs of Peace

Labor Party Leader Believes Germany Will Enter League Within a Year—Must Buy Goods From Recent Enemy.

(Special Cable to Washington Herald.) By SIR PHILIP GIBBS.

PARIS, June 4.—It is one of the inevitable actions of life that the government of a country is always represented by newspaper men and politicians as though it were the country itself, and, worse still, half a dozen or a dozen leading articles in prominent journals are quoted all over the world as the voice of the people. France, we say, is militaristic. Then all the sound and fury of French journalism is taken at its face value, as though the French people themselves were ready to break with England because of indiscreet or vexatious words spoken by Lloyd George. All that is very misleading, as I have found once again after a few days in France.

## GIRL'S TESTIMONY IMPERILS YOUTH IN MURDER TRIAL

Asserts Decker Needed Money and Knew of Insurance.

WARSAW, Ind., June 4.—Fred Decker, brother of Virgil Decker, now on trial here for the murder of Leroy Lovett, 26, was desperate for money and the debt preyed on the mind of Virgil for weeks preceding the alleged murder of Virgil's friend and "double."

This was brought out at Virgil Decker's trial today through the testimony of many witnesses, including Virgil's pretty 16-year-old sweetheart, Carrie Eggleston of Elkhart.

She is "Almost Engaged."

Directing a coquettish smile at the youthful prisoner, to whom she admitted she was "almost engaged," she proceeded to give testimony that she not only aided in sending her young lover to the electric chair, but which may involve his mother and two brothers in the most cold-blooded murder conspiracy in the criminal history of Indiana.

"Did Virgil ever talk to you about his family affairs?" asked states Attorney Henry W. Graham.

"Yes, he told me several times that his brother Fred had bought a big farm and that he was heavily in debt and needed money."

"Did he ever talk about life insurance?" was the next question.

"Yes, sir. He told me he carried life insurance and it was payable to Fred."

## EX-CROWN PRINCE FIGURES IN SUIT

Liked Women Who "Treated Him Rough," Says One Witness.

NANCY, France, June 4.—Frederick Wilhelm, former German crown prince, liked women who "treated him rough," according to testimony introduced today at the start of Mile. Blanche D'Essey's suit for 20,000 francs damages against Louis Dumur, author, for alleged defamation of character.

In a novel, Dumur made certain allegations regarding Mile. D'Essey's relations with Frederick Wilhelm while the latter's headquarters were located at Nancy during the assault on Verdun. Residents of that village today described the former crown prince's life there.

A number of women frequently were at headquarters, they said. One of these women was a special favorite because she "treated him rough," according to one witness.

Dumur stated in his book that Frederick Wilhelm chose Stenay solely because of the beauty of Mile. D'Essey, who was the daughter of the village chief of police.

## Leaves Great Grandson \$1,000 for 21st Birthday

Harry O'Connor, great-grandson of Mrs. Joanna Barry who died June 1, is to have \$1,000 when he reaches his 21st birthday, according to the will of his great-grandmother, filed for probate yesterday.

The money was devised in trust to a grandson, Charles O'Connor, and Mrs. Barry devised \$500 to St. Patrick's church for masses and a similar amount to Mount Olivet cemetery for the care of her burial plot. After one other small bequest is paid, the balance of the estate is left to the daughter, Mary Barry O'Connor, who is named executrix.

## BERLIN NOTES HALT WAR IN SILESIA

German Population in the Factory District Threatens an Outbreak.

(Special Cable to The Washington Herald and Chicago Tribune.)

## COMMISSION PLANS PEACEFUL SOLUTION

British Preparing to Operate Alone Against the Poles.

(Special Cable to The Washington Herald and Chicago Tribune.)

BERLIN, June 4.—Chancellor Wirth's government got a left-handed vote of confidence this afternoon when the nationalists asked for a vote of lack of confidence, which lost by 261 to 77.

Immediately the government proposed a vote on the cabinet's attitude on fulfilling the allied ultimatum and an refraining from fostering violent resistance to the Polish insurgents in upper Silesia. The government's proposal was carried by 213 to 77.

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## German Threaten Attack Because of Allies' Delay

By CARL D. GROOT.

GLEIWITZ, Upper Silesia, June 4.—Resumption of fighting between Germans and Poles was threatened momentarily here tonight.

The German population of this great factory district, angered by delays by the allies, held in terror at night by armed Polish insurgents, threatened again to take affairs in their own hands and make a final desperate effort to clear the region of their enemies.

## Plan Solution Without Loss By Armies Changing Bases

(Special Cable to The Washington Herald and Chicago Tribune.)

OPPELN, June 4.—The interallied plebiscite commission was closed for several hours yesterday to consider plans for retaking the territory occupied by the Polish insurgents. Although no decision was announced, it is understood a new method for the systematic using of French as well as British and Italian troops was given careful attention.

The new plan besides having the advantage of keeping the entente intact it is believed will effect a solution without bloodshed.

## French to Take Polish Positions.

If this method is adopted the French will take over the Polish positions and turn them over to the British who will be sandwiched between the French and the Germans. In this way the French will prevent an open clash between the British and the Poles and the British will prevent hostilities between the Germans and the French and Poles.

The French declare the German defense organizations must be dismantled first but the British insist the Germans have a right to remain on the defensive and the Italians agree that it was Polish aggression which forced the Germans to arrange for a defense until the league of nations was able to prove its competence to keep order.

## POLES ARE ANTI-BRITISH.

The British are expecting more tanks and six squadrons of airplanes and they are prepared to operate alone against the Poles should the French continue to block the attempt to drive the insurgents out. The Poles are bitterly anti-British. American correspondents were told by Polish sentries that the Poles would as soon fight the British as the Germans.

## Naval Graduates Of 1881 Will Meet In Japan in 1922

The next reunion of the class of 1881, United States Naval Academy, will be held in Tokyo.

At a dinner tendered the class last night by Secretary of the Navy Denby an invitation to meet again in Japan next year was extended by Baron Soelch Uru, an admiral in the Japanese navy and one of the members of the class.

## Brig. Gen. Mitchell Safe After Rough Trip to Sea

Brig.-Gen. William Mitchell is safe and sound at Langley Field, Va., official of the commandant's office at the field said yesterday.

They declared that a fishing trip by the assistant chief of the air service had given rise to the report that he was lost at sea.

It was learned here, however, that Mitchell and a party of officers made a trip to inspect the old battleship Indiana last Wednesday. When they attempted to return their motorboat stalled and they spent six hours on the Indiana. They were finally picked up, but the sea was so rough that they were forced to spend the night on Tangier Island.

# CLOUDBURST AND FIRE STRIKE DEATH AND CHAOS IN PUEBLO

## HISTORY OF DISASTER SHOWS OTHER FLOODS MORE DEADLY

Johnstown Catastrophe Stands Foremost in Memory, Although Galveston Heads Death List

Several disastrous floods in this country in the last twenty years have had death lists running into the hundreds, but only two of them have been caused by torrential rains.

One was the flood in 1913 that ran up a death list of 730 and property loss of \$180,873,000 in Ohio and Indiana. In 1915 about 300 lives were lost in a cloudburst at Heppner, Oreg.

The flood that stands foremost in the memory of the country as a catastrophe was that at Johnstown, Pa., on May 31, 1889, in which 2,209 lives were lost and \$10,000,000 worth of property destroyed or swept away. This was not due to a storm, but to the breaking of the reservoir dam.

The worst of the flood disasters along the Texas coast at Galveston, occurred on September 8, 1900, causing a loss of 6,000 lives and nearly \$20,000,000 damage. This flood was caused by a hurricane from the Gulf of Mexico.

A year before this first Galveston flood, a flood in the Brazos valley in Texas caused hundreds of thousands of dollars damage and serious loss of life. This flood was followed by the bursting of a dam at Austin the next year, costing \$1,000,000 damage and serious loss of life.

In the floods in Ohio and Indiana in 1913 the city hardest hit was Dayton. The dead numbered 732 for the two states and a property loss of \$180,873,000.

## Second Time Pueblo Suffers From Treacherous Streams

City With a Population of 42,908 Divided Into Two Parts By River and Raging Creek.

Pueblo is a city of 42,908 inhabitants, according to the figures of the 1920 census, and is situated at the confluence of Fountain creek with the Arkansas river. The city is divided into two parts by the Arkansas, and Fountain creek, a tributary about 25 miles long, comes boiling down through a mountain canyon and empties into the larger stream virtually in the heart of the city.

Fountain creek, so named because of its picturesque turbulence characteristic of mountain canyon streams, is one of a network of creeks and streams that hurry down to the Arkansas from the snows of the mountain ranges around the city. Turkey creek, Rock creek, Chico, Black Squirrel, Hard Scrabble, Red creek, St. Charles river, Greenhorn river—these are a few

## KILLS WIFE OF 18 AND SHOTS SELF

Chicago Man Maddened by Neglect of Their Baby's Grave.

CHICAGO, June 4.—Albert R. Beardsley, 28 years old, of West Chicago, shot and killed his 18-year-old wife, Mrs. Alice Fowler Beardsley, today. He then killed himself.

The shooting is believed to have been caused by Beardsley's jealousy and his discovery that his wife had neglected the grave of their baby. They separated two months ago, a short time after their child died. Beardsley visited the grave in Melrose Park cemetery Memorial day.

## GOES TO MEXICO ON BANK MISSION

Elmer Dover, of Tacoma, Wash., formerly private secretary to the late Mark Hanna, has gone to Mexico City with a commission from President Harding to straighten out financial matters standing in the way of renewed relations.

Mr. Dover, according to information received at the state department, has not gone as an official representative of the American government. He was designated by the President to make the necessary arrangements whereby the banking houses of this country can go to the aid of the republic below the Rio Grande.

## GERMANS ACQUIT U-BOAT OFFICER

LEIPZIG, Germany, June 4.—Lieut. Neumann, of the German navy, charged with sinking the British hospital ship Dover Castle in which many lives were lost, was acquitted today by the special courts trying Germans accused of violating the rules of warfare.

Admiral Scheer had maintained that Neumann, a U-boat commander, was merely obeying orders in sinking a ship in a part of the Mediterranean which Germany had declared closed to craft of that class.

## Roaring Torrent Bursts Upon City, Razing Homes And Trapping Inhabitants

Misery and Extreme Suffering Follows Exposure to Rain and Biting Winds as Grim Survivors Gather in Safety Spots—Heat Impossible for Fear of Adding Fuel to Blazing Buildings—Flood Waters Rose so Rapidly Warning Could Not Be Given Imperiled Men, Women and Children.

The situation in Pueblo, Colo., after the waters of the Arkansas and Fountain rivers had receded last night, may be summed up as follows:

Dead—500, estimated. Property damage from flood and fire—\$10,000,000. Martial law proclaimed, with state rangers and national guard in control. Orders "shoot to kill" given to prevent looting.

Two-thirds of city still under water; business section in ruins from fire; thousands marooned on high points. City without light, heat or drinking water. No sanitary arrangements, and pestilence feared.

System of food rationing instituted, and food administrator named. Relief trains started from Denver and Colorado Springs. Red Cross organizing relief measures.

PUEBLO, Colo., June 4.—Lives of 500 men, women and children were snuffed out here when floods swept down from the mountains on this city Friday night. It was estimated tonight.

One hundred and ninety-nine bodies were recovered and were in the improvised morgues tonight. Hundreds of survivors viewed the corpses in an effort to identify the dead.

## Flood Hits Two Trains; 300 Missing

CANON CITY, Colo., June 4.—Fear was expressed here today that probably 300 passengers had perished when Missouri-Pacific passenger train No. 2 and Denver and Rio Grande passenger train No. 3 were overtaken by the flood in the Pueblo railway yards.

The reports came from railway officials in Pueblo as a confidential communication to the office here.

Both trains had just pulled into the yards when the wall of water struck the cars, undermined the tracks and toppled over the coaches. Although authentic details were lacking, railroad men feared many of the passengers had perished.

Efforts to reach Pueblo from this city by train had failed tonight.

## BODIES OF VICTIMS PILED IN WRECKAGE

With 199 in Morgue, Ebbing Waters Searched for More.

DENVER, June 4.—The Western Union manager at Pueblo stated that "There are 199 bodies in the morgue here, and that others are being brought in continuously."

He believed, he said, the death list would run as high as 500. "Most of the dead," he said, "are Mexicans."

Bodies were discovered in piles of wreckage along the river front. There were two separate cloudbursts. The first, although it swelled the little Arkansas river to a stream miles wide, did not do such great damage. It broke at 7 p. m. The people were warned and were able to flee to safety.

They were starting to venture back to their homes at 10 p. m., when a second flood was let loose from the skies. This came without warning and with such suddenness that many were unprepared.

Buildings were washed away before the tide, which was said to have been at least six feet high. Warning bells and whistles were sounded, but some failed to heed and perished. Large buildings where many had taken refuge were carried away.

Fires broke out as the water started to go down. Flames lit up the sky. As the refugees gathered together in the buildings still standing, they suffered greatly from the intense cold which followed the deluge.

Indians Ask Free Speech. President Harding has been asked to issue a proclamation granting the American Indian the rights of free speech, free assembly, and referendum, according to August A. Bruening (Unquar), who stated yesterday that a draft from the Rappahannock Indians, endorsed by Gov. Davis, of Virginia, had been sent to the Executive.